

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 06455 220210Z

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ACTION ARA-10

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SUBJECT: MEETINGS OF US COMMISSION ON ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT PROBLEM

REF DREYFUSS-ESTEP TELCON OF JULY 17

1. EMBASSY PLANS TO BEGIN IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE BRAINSTORMING SESSIONS INVOLVING ALL APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND OFFICES IN EFFORT TO CONSOLIDATE VIEWS AND HOPEFULLY MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REVIEW OF SUBJECT COMMISSION. OBVIOUSLY, EMBASSY FOCUS WILL BE UPON GOM VIEWS, AS WE PERCIEVE THEM, POSSIBLE US RESPONSE, AND GENERAL IMPACT OF THIS PROBLEM UPON BILATERAL RELATIONS. WE HOPE TO LOOK AT PROBLEM OVER MIDDLE TO LONG-TERM. OBVIOUSLY, EMBASSY CANNOT PROVIDE SIMPLE OR IMMEDIATE SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEM WHICH HAS PLAGUED BOTH GOVERNMENTS FOR YEARS. AT MOST, EMBASSY CAN PROVIDE INSIGHT INTO CURRENT THINKING OF GOM AND MAKE SOME PROJECTIONS OF FUTURE EFFECT OF THIS PROBLEM ON RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

2. AT PRESENT WE HAVE NO CLEAR INDICATION OF GOM PLANS FOR INITIAL MEETING OF TWO COMMISSIONS OR LONGER-TERM GOM

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PAGE 02 MEXICO 06455 220210Z

PLANNING. DESPITE FACT THAT MEXICAN COMMISSION HAS BEEN IN

EXISTENCE FOR SOME YEARS (THOUGH RECENTLY EXPANDED), THE MEXICAN GROUP HAS APPARENTLY NOT YET FULLY ASSIMILATED OR DIGESTED LONG-RANGE EFFECT ON MEXICAN POLICY OF DECISION ANNOUNCED BY PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA LAST OCTOBER TO DESIST FROM EFFORTS TO GET NEW BRACERO PROGRAM. MOREOVER, THERE ARE CLEARLY WIDE DIVERGENCIES OF VIEWS WITHIN MEXICAN COMMISSION AND IT IS NOT CLEAR THAT FOREIGN SECRETARIAT HAS SUFFICIENT DOMINANCE WITHIN COMMISSION TO DO NECESSARY HEAD-KNOCKING TO PRODUCE COHERENT AND UNIFIED MEXICAN POSITION.

3. DESPITE FOREGOING, WE THINK THAT THERE HAVE BEEN SOME INDICATIONS THAT IN THE END GOM WILL WORK TOWARD THE OBJECTIVE OF SOME AGREEMENT OR CONVENTION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS WHICH WOULD PROTECT NOT ONLY HUMAN BUT ALSO LABOR/EMPLOYMENT "RIGHTS" OF MEXICAN WORKERS IN US, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THOSE WORKERS ARE IN LEGAL OR ILLEGAL STATUS. WE THINK US COMMISSION MIGHT PROFITABLY CONSIDER WHAT US RESPONSE SHOULD BE TO APPROACH ALONG LINES DESCRIBED.

4. IN EMBASSY VIEW, THE MOST USEFUL PREPARATION US COMMISSION MIGHT MAKE FOR EVENTUAL MEETING OF TWO NATIONAL COMMISSIONS WOULD BE IN DATA GATHERING. WE RECOGNIZE THAT A FULL-SCALE COMPREHENSIVE SURVEY OF PROBLEM OF ILLEGALS AND THEIR IMPACT IN US IS NOT PRACTICABLE IN SHORT TERM. NEVERTHELESS, IT OCCURS TO US THAT RESOURCES OF VARIOUS AGENCIES REPRESENTED ON COMMISSION MIGHT BE SUFFICIENT TO PROVIDE ILLUSTRATIVE DATA OF RELEVANCE AND INTEREST TO GOM, E.G., IMPACT OF ILLEGALS IN GIVEN GEOGRAPHICAL OR METROPOLITAN AREA IN TERMS OF WELFARE AND INFRASTRUCTURE COSTS TO US TAXPAYERS. (IN THIS CONNECTION, EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT GAO HAS GATHERED THIS SORT OF DATA FOR SOME CITIES IN US). OBVIOUSLY, ILLUSTRATIVE DATA OR EXAMPLES WILL NOT PROVIDE CONCLUSIVE ANSWERS, BUT PRESENTATION MIGHT HAVE VERY BENEFICIAL EDUCATIONAL EFFECT ON MEXICAN NATIONAL COMMISSION. FOR US INFORMATION, IF NOT FOR DISCUSSION WITH GOM, IT WOULD ALSO BE EXTREMELY HELPFUL TO HAVE EVEN ROUGH ESTIMATES OF ECONOMIC BENEFITS DERIVED FOR GIVEN GEOGRAPHICAL AREA FROM PRESENCE OF ILLEGAL MEXICAN WORKERS.

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PAGE 03 MEXICO 06455 220210Z

5. EMBASSY WOULD SUGGEST, FURTHER, IF THIS HAS NOT YET BEEN DONE, THAT COMMISSION ACTIVELY SOLICIT CURRENT AUTHORITATIVE VIEWS OF LABOR SECTOR AND OF MORE IMPORTANT CHICANO (AND OTHER INTERESTED) GROUPS ON ILLEGALS QUESTION. THESE VIEWS WOULD ALSO HELP TO EDUCATE MEXICAN COMMISSION.

6. EMBASSY HOPES FOREGOING WILL BE HELPFUL IN FORMULATING

US COMMISSIONS WORKING OBJECTIVES FOR IMMEDIATE FUTURE.
IN MEANTIME, EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO PROBE MEXICAN FOR
DEVELOPMENTS IN THEIR COMMISSION, INDICATIONS OF GOM
THINKING ON AGENDA TOPICS FOR MEETING, ETC. EMBASSY WILL
ALSO UNDERTAKE STUDY SESSIONS MENTIONED IN PARA 1
ABOVE. WE HOPE DEPARTMENT WILL KEEP US FULLY INFORMED
ON WORK OF US COMMISSION AND WOULD APPRECIATE MEMO-
RANDUM OR MINUTES OF MEETING IF AVAILABLE.
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